



Photo: Lindsay McCullough, National Geographic Photo Camp



Photo: Nicolas Lemoine, France



Photo: Matt Moyer, National Geographic Photo Camp

Ocean for Life: One World, One Ocean

An Initiative to Increase Cultural Understanding through Ocean Science

Background for Adult References

The problems that face the ocean today cross national boundaries and require global solutions. Ocean for Life: An Initiative to Increase Cultural Understanding through Ocean Science is an integrated solution that brings together diverse high school students to better understand the global ocean, each other's cultures and societies, thereby building a strong foundation for tomorrow's global leaders. The program is a partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, The GLOBE Program and Scubonauts International, in collaboration with National Geographic Society, American University's Center for Environmental Filmmaking, and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

High school students from Western countries will participate alongside high school students selected from GLOBE schools within the Greater Middle East. Together, this diverse group of students will learn more about the unique qualities of national marine sanctuaries and the importance of the ocean to our planet. Within the context of this immersive two-week field experience at a U.S. national marine sanctuary, the Ocean for Life program will foster cross-cultural learning, appreciation, and relationships through exploration of how the ocean affects and connects us all.

The Ocean for Life field studies consist of collaborative ocean research expeditions, exploration, scholastic achievement, and an all-encompassing sense of wonder, while also allowing students from different countries to connect through common experiences and forge cross-cultural bonds. We anticipate that the program will help participants gain a meaningful understanding of our global relationships, provide perspectives that will remain for a lifetime, and be a formative experience for our future leaders. Fostering a better understanding of the environment, each other, and how we are all connected by one global ocean, is an excellent method to establish and strengthen our cross-cultural relationships.

The goals and objectives of the Ocean for Life program are:

1. To bring together multi-national students in an immersive, hands-on program that allow them to explore, study, and gain new perspectives about unique ocean environments while gaining an appreciation about each other's diverse cultures.
2. To provide intercultural background materials and training for all staff and participants.
3. To provide one-of-a-kind, ocean-based field experiences for multinational students to explore their connections to the environment and each other.
4. To raise awareness of the importance of resources in the ocean, the current issues facing those resources, the research being done to address those issues, and the role of marine sanctuaries in protecting those resources.
5. To instill in the participants the desire to share ocean literacy in their communities as a means to communicate our shared heritage and dependence on the ocean.
6. To develop still photography and video "youth media projects" that students can share broadly with classmates, schools, local communities, and other audiences through various outreach networks.
7. To foster a long-term collaborative education program including the classrooms and schools of all Western and Greater Middle Eastern participants.

Students will:

- be immersed in collaborative classroom, laboratory, and field activities that raise awareness of the natural world, their connection to it, and how it connects them to each other;
- gain an enhanced awareness and understanding of the conservation and stewardship of our ocean and coasts through introduction to the National Marine Sanctuary System;
- build relationships with peers and gain a better understanding of different countries and cultures;
- learn about the interconnectedness of the world's ocean and understand that their local actions impact the ocean no matter where they live;
- become advocates of ocean conservation and cross-cultural appreciation within their communities through outreach;
- be introduced to ocean science and related careers to inspire them to learn more about these types of career opportunities; and
- work with mentors to learn how to use still and video cameras to photo document their field experience and develop "youth media projects."

OCEAN FOR LIFE STUDENT APPLICATION

SECTION IV — REFERENCE FORM

PART I: To be completed by the student applicant.

Applicant's Name: _____

Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

I am applying for the Ocean for Life program that requires the skills described above. Please add a narrative reference attesting to your knowledge of my competence in as many of these areas as possible.

I would appreciate it if you would complete this reference form by the deadline of March 7, 2011. The completed form can be scanned and emailed or faxed to the contact listed below.

Claire Fackler

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Phone (805) 963-3238 ext. 18

Fax (805) 963-2438

Email Claire.Fackler@noaa.gov



PART II: To be completed by the non-relative adult reference.

Reference's Name: _____

Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Country: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____

What is your relationship to the applicant? _____

Are you a current teacher of the applicant? Yes No

Check one rating in each category to assess the following qualities of the applicant.

Scale: 5 = Excellent; 4 = Above Average; 3 = Average; 2 = Below Average; 1 = Don't Know

	5	4	3	2	1		5	4	3	2	1
Is dependable and responsible						Is able to relate well to adults					
Has poise and ease in meeting people						Is adaptable and flexible					
Accepts differences in people						Is physically fit					
Is able to share ideas and feelings						Is creative					
Is able to work well in a group						Demonstrates leadership skills					
Demonstrates maturity and self-control						Is capable of developing a draft action plan for conservation					
Is proficient in English						Is self-motivated					

Describe the applicant's special strengths and/or skills as they relate to the Ocean for Life program (see background information above). Please give specific examples. If more space is needed, attach additional sheets, making sure to include the name of applicant and your name in the top right-hand corner of each page.

Reference Signature: _____ Date: _____